THE PLOUGH BOY.

BY S. SOUTHWICK.

"He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."—BUT—"He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread."—*Ecclesiastes.*

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From Huish's Treatise on Bees.

LIST OF TREES, PLANTS AND FLOWERS, FROM WHICH THE BEES EXTRACT THEIR HONEY AND WAX.

Apple.—The blossom of this tree is eagerly sought after by the Bees.

Arbutus.—This is a small shrub, which preserves its leaves, and produces rather an oval fruit, of a yellowish red colour; rich in farina.

Apricot.—The blossom of this tree is much frequented by the Bees.

Ash.—The flower of this tree is rich in farina.

Almond.—This tree blossoms early, and emits a smell similar to honey; the Bees extract a copious harvest from it.

Althea frutex.—Flowers in May, and continues in bloom for three months.

Amaranth.

Aspin.—The Bees gather a great quantity of provision from the buds of this tree. The resinous or gummy matter, with which they are covered, is very tenacious, and of a brown colour. From this tree, it is supposed that the Bees fabricate their propolis.

Balm.—Much frequented by Bees.

Blackberry.—Of great value to Bees both in honey and farina.

Burrage.—This may be called the king of plants for the Bees. It produces many flowers, and continues in bloom for several months, during which time the Bees appear actually to swarm upon them. This plant should be particularly cultivated by every apiarian.

Betony.—The produce of this plant is supposed to give a bitter taste to the honey, although Gallo considers it as the most perfect of all herbs.

Box.—The flowers of this shrub yield a considerable quantity of farina.

Beans.—Every species of this pulse yields a plentiful harvest to the Bee. The common horse bean, the kidney, and the scarlet runner, are the most prolific in honey.

Buck wheat.—Bees cannot fail to thrive where this grain is cultivated. Its culture, however, in England is very confined; but on the Continent, where it is more extensive, the quantity of honey amassed by the Bees is very considerable.

Broom.—This is a most valuable shrub for the Bees. It blossoms early, and excepting the furze, there is no plant from which a greater quantity of farina is extracted.

Burnet.—Very prolific in honey.

Cabbages, Cauliflowers, and every species of these vegetables, are much sought after by the Bees.

Cherry.—Few trees present greater gratification to the Bees than the Cherry, the flowers yield a profusion of honey, and M. Contardi asserts that a single flower contains a sufficiency to fill the bladder of the Bee.—This may take place in the country of which M. Contardi was a native (Italy); but this fecundity of honey certainly does not exist in this country.

Clover.—The common white clover, generally known by the appellation of cow-grass, is, on account of the shortness of its pistils, the particular choice of the Bees; the red clover is very prolific in honey, and affords excellent pasturage for them. In the Levant, the flower of the clover is yellow. The white clover, or cow-grass, growing spontaneously, is invaluable to the apiarian.

Chestnut and *Horse Chestnut,* are both rich in farina. In the vicinity of Arundel, where the former is in great abundance, the Bees thrive uncommonly.

Currant.—The early flowering of this fruit, and the extraordinary quantity of honey which it contains, renders the culture of it particularly desirable in the vicinity of the apiary.

Cypress,—like the Box, yields a considerable quantity of farina.

Dandelion.—This flower is much frequented by the Bees.

Endive.—In flower, valuable to Bees.

Elm.—During the time of the flowering of this tree, the Bees obtain a precious harvest, and as it flowers early, it is very desirable in the vicinity of an apiary.

Elder.—The Abbe della Rocca says, that he never saw a Bee alight on the flowers of the elder. I believe that very little honey is extracted from it; but I have been too often an eye-witness of the particular attention which the Bees pay to the flower of the elder, to doubt that a considerable quantity of farina is obtained from it.

Furze.—The early blooming of this shrub, renders it highly valuable in the vicinity of an apiary. Its fecundity in farina is surpassed by very few of the plants, from which the Bees extract their materials for wax. The absence of this plant is one reason why a highly cultivated country is not beneficial to the culture of Bees. But why might not the hedges be constructed of it? As a defence and boundary it is certainly unquestionably good, nor would the proprietor or farmer be injured by its adoption. In a season of scarcity of fodder, it has been found an excellent substitute, and as fuel, it is now used in some counties of England by the poorer classes.

Gooseberry.—The blossom of this fruit possesses the same good qualities as the currant. It is even richer in honey, and generally forms the first source from which the Bees extract their honey in the spring.

Golden-Rod.—As this flower blooms only about Michaelmas, it is very valuable to Bees. Some of the German apiarians consider the honey of this plant to be of a deleterious nature. I inquired of the keeper of one of the Hanoverian Bee-caravans, his grounds for believing in the injurious, effects of the golden rod, and his only reason was, that his mother told him so. I should have anticipated this answer from nine-tenths of the keepers of Bees in England; but coming from a German apiarian, it furnished me with another proof, that knowledge and practice are not always combined.

Gourds, Melons, Cucumbers, all supply Bees with food.

Hawthorn; black and white, both equally advantageous.

Heath.—It is impossible to describe the value of heath in the collection of honey. It is very possible, and it is even certain, that Bees will thrive without it: but its vicinity to the apiary is a great acquisition.

Hyacinths.—(Single) yield a little produce; but it is too trifling, to encourage their culture.

Iris Jonquil.—A considerable quantity of honey is extracted from the flower of this plant.

Lucerne.—This is a valuable pasturage for the Bees, and especially as it is cropped a second time, which brings the flowering late.

Lavender.—The honey extracted from this plant is supposed to possess an aromatic flavour, and it is asserted that the flavour which the Sicilian honey posseses, is to be ascribed to the lavender with which the island abounds.

Laurel.—This schrub is particular valuable, as during the sultry weather its leaves are always covered with the honey dew. Its flowers also abound with farina.

Lily.—Almost every species of this flower yields an abundant harvest to the Bees. It is however singular, that the common white lily, which abounds so much with farina, appears to be almost wholly rejected by them.

Lemon-Tree.—This is a luxurious tree for the Bees. No great advantage, can, however, be expected to be derived from it in this conntry, as the climate is not congenial with its growth. The same rule hold good with the orange-tree.

Mignionette.—Of all cultivated flowers, this is the richest in honey. Its cultivation ought to be particularly attended to.

Melilot—(*Trifolium melilotus officinialis*). This plant is biennial, and grows in hedges and thickets. It produces a great quantity of honey, and the Bees are very eager in their search for it. It blows in the months of July and August, and is in some respects superior to the buck-wheat, as the honey extracted from it is supposed to be of a high flavour.

Mustard—(Wild and cultivated).—Of the former the Bees are particularly avaricious, and the difficulty with which it is eradicated from the ground, gives great reason to suppose this food of the Bee will never be exhausted.

Marsh mallows.—Rich in farina.

The following may be considered as providing abundance of food for Bees, and the cultivation of which ought to be encouraged.

Oak.
Parsley.
Pear Tree.
Parsnip (*in flower.*)
Poppy.
Primrose.—This flower is quoted by some French apiarians as yielding honey, but I never saw a Bee alight upon it.
Plum Trees of every species.
Rosemary.—This shrub is particularly rich in honey, & it gives to it a very pleasant flavor.
Radishes.
Ragweed.—This plant yields excellent honey, and as it flowers late, is very valuable.
Raspberry.
Strawberry, Particularly the Alpine.
Sage.
Savory.
Saffron.
Sainfoin.
Sunflower.
Sycamore.
Single roses of all kinds.
Turnips.—The flower of this root is very rich in farina, and eagerly sought after by the Bees.
Thyme—(Wild and cultivated).—Invaluable to Bees.
Willow.
Wild marjorum.
Vetches.
Violets (single.)
Viper's bugloss.
All resinous trees.

In the list of these plants and flowers, the *golden-rod* must be particularly noticed, as it begins to bloom when all the other flowers have faded, and continues to blow until the middle of November. This flower is always covered with Bees, during the last months of the summer, and the 2 first months of autumn, provided the weather will permit the Bees at that season of the year to leave the hive. This plant should be particularly cultivated in the vicinity of anapiary. It will grow in the worst of and soils, an acre of unarable land planted with the goldenrod, would furnish at the close of the season a sufficiency for a hundred hives to complete their winter stock.

In general, all those plants ought to be cultivated which begin to blow in February and March, and those which keep flowering to the close of the season. The Bees, always active and laborious, turn to advantage, with the same ardour, the last as well as the first moments of vegetation and the flowering of the plants.

All vegetables contain more or less the principles of honey, only in a greater or less degree. Consequently, the Bees can maintain themselves every where, and gather a stock of honey proportionate to the abundance which is offered to them in the country which they occupy. It is, however the rich and vast meadows well studded with flowers, in which the useless daisy is not seen, the fields whitened with buck-wheat, the plains gilded with the flower of the wild mustard, the turnup and the cabbage, and the forest of oak, ash, elm, &c. that present to the Bees a daily supply of excellent food, and an abuudance of provisions, wherewith to fill their magazines.

I am, however, sorry to be obliged to notice, that in the present state of the culture of the Bees in this country, there is no reason to fear a scarcity of food for that valuable insect. Taking England and Scotland on an average, it is certain that there is not one hive to ten square miles, whereas one square mile would support twenty hives.

It is difficult to believe, that there are so many plants prejudicial to Bees, as it is asserted by several authors; if there be any, which might give a pernicious effect to the honey, it would perhaps be our narcotic plants, such as the henbane, hemlock and others; but from my individual experience, I am not able to decide this question.

The Abbe della Rocea mentions but one flower, which in known in the Archipelago, as giving a bitter taste to the honey, and this is the flower of a particular species of large onion, known by the name of *Turcaki*, but it was never found to be injurious to Bees, nor the health of man. It is true that of this species of honey, which the Bees collect in the month of October, no nse is made for domestic purposes; it is generally left for the consumption of the Bees. It is certain that the flowers of the onion and the leck in this country give an unplesant flavour to the honey, and in certain parts of France, where these vegitables are much cultivated, the hives, during their flowering, emit a very strong odour of the onion. On this subject, a correspondent at Paris, transmits me the following anecdote. "You well know that there is not an apiary in the vicinity of this city (Paris,) which I have not visited. I one day paid my respects to M. Lemonneir, who possees a very extensive apiary, and we were much annoyed by a very disagreeable smell of onions. We at first supposed that some one had been spreading out some onions in the vicinity to dry; and M. Lemonnier was rather uneasy about his Bees, from a fear that the odour might incommode them. We however, afterwards discovered, that the odour proceeded from the hives themselves, and from the honey which the Bees had collected from the flowers of the onions. This odour was so strong, that is was perceptable four or five paces from the hives. The honey which was extracted from those hives, was strongly impregnated with the onion odour."

M. Buch'oz mentions several flowers which are injurious to the Bees, namely, the elm, narcissus, elder, lime, and some others. In regard to the latter, it appears to be decided, that this tree, so far from being injurious to the Bees, is wholly the reverse, for it is particularly beneficial to them. In regard to the other flowers, I do not believe that their injurious qualities are so completely demonstrated, as the above author pretends.* To verify the fact, some peices of the comb ought to be extracted the hive during the season, when the above plants and flower are in bloom, and it should be analyzed, in order to discover if it was compounded differently from the common honey of the country collected in another season.

* The German apiarians concceive, that the honey or farina collected from the fields which have been manured with gypsum, is very prejudicial to the health of the Bees.

It may however happen, that the honey of certain countries may possess noxious qualities. Tournefort relates in his Travels in the Levant, some interesting facts on this subject. He says, the *chamærododendron* is a small shrub which grows in the environs of Trebisonde, and which bears a cluster of more than twenty flowers of the greatest beauty. This plant is partial to a humid and fat earth, and is considered unwholesome. The cattle never eat it, unless driven to it by hunger. The inhabitants of Trebisonde, from an ancient tradition, founded no doubt, on some particular observations, assert, that the honey extracted from it by the Bees stupefies those who eat it, and causes violent retchings.*

Pliny has better illustrated the history of this *Chamærododendron* than either Dioscorodes or Aristotle. It was the belief of the latter, that the Bees collected this snjurious honey on the box, which rendered those silly who ate of it, and who were previously in good health. Pliny thus speaks of it. "There are certain years in which the honey is very dangerous in the vicinity of Heraclius, on the Euxine. The authors are not of accord from what flowers the Bees extract it. All the information which I am enabled to give on the subject is, there is a plant in this county called *ægholethron*, the flowers of which, in a wet spring acquire a very dangerous quality, when they fade. The honey, which the Bees extract from them, is more liquid than ordinary, much heavier and of a reddish hue. Its odour excites sneezing; they who eat it perspire profusely, and lie down on the ground." He afterwards adds the same remarks as Dioscorides, whose words he appears to have copied.

Pliny continues, "There is another sort of honey on the shores of the Euxine, which is called *mœnomenon*, because it renders those persons senseless who eat of it. It is supposed that the Bees collect it from the flowers of the rhododendron, which is universally found in the woods." The people of this country, although they paid a part of their tribute to the Romans in wax, took particular care not to give them any of their honey.

* Dioscorides speaks of this honey nearly in the same terms: "In the vivinity of Heraclius on the Black sea," he says, "at a certain time of the year, the honey stupifies those who eat of it, and it is certainly owing to the properties of the flowers from which it is extracted: they perspire profusely, but the vomiting is cured by rue, saline draughts, and mead. This honey is tart and causes a sneezing. It takes away the freckles on the face. If it be mixed with salt and aloes, it effaces the blackness occasioned by bruises. If dogs or pigs swallow the excrements of persons who have eaten of this honey, the same casualties befall them."

When the army of 10,000 Greeks approached Trebisonde, a singular accident befel them, and which raised a great consternation amongst the troops, and it is related by Xenophon, who was one of the principle chiefs.—That author says that, as the number of Beehives was considerable, the soldiers ate a great quantity of the honey; they were all seized with vomiting and purging, followed by vertigo: so much so, that those who were the least afflicted, resembled intoxicated persons, and others appeared like madmen in a dying state. The ground was covered with bodies, as if a battle had taken place; not an individual however died, and the malady ceased on the following day about the same time as it commenced; on the third day, the soldiers were in that weakened state, which a person experiences after having taken a strong medicine. Diodorus of Sicily, relates the same fact, under similar circumstances.—There is every reason to suppose that the honey was extracted from the flowers of some species of the chamærododendron. The environs of Trebisonde are full of it, and Father Lambert, a missionary, acknowledges, that the honey which the Bees extract from a certain shrub in Colchis and Mingrelia, is dangerous, and causes vomiting. He calls this shrub *oleandro giallo*.

Although the above detail carries with it a positive degree of interest, yet my aim in describing it has not been solely limited to the desire of establishing the point of a particular species of honey being injurious to the health; but I had also in view a direct refutation of the opinion of certain apiarians, an opinion which is very prevalent in France) that honey is a fabrication of the Bee, and does not exist of itself in the nectarium of the flower. If the former were the case, there could be no such thing in existance as injurious honey, for the produce of the Bee would be the same in all countries; but if under any particular circumstances, deleterious honey should be produced, it must be ascribed to some cause not dependent on the Bee, and this cause can be no other than particular flowers from which the Bee extracted its honey, and which undergoing no process in its stomach, is deposited in its natural state in the cell.

From the American Economist.

To the Editor.—As I was musing the other evening, upon the "state of the nation," I reflected on the difficulties of the times, of which every one is complaining, but for which all appear ignorant of a suitable remedy. Thinking the following lines, illustrative of the virtues of my old coat, might throw a little light upon the subject, as being intimately connected with it. I send them to you for publication.

ORLANDO.

TO MY OLD COAT.

Long time hath pass'd, old ragged friend,
Since first we came together,
And thou to me thy aid didst lend,
To shield me from the weather.
The Dandy, as he passess by,
Condemns each ragged feature;
While modest virtue, with a sigh,
Exclaims "O wretched creature!"
The Ladies (kind obliging souls)
As thro' the streets they dash on,
Whene'er they view thy many holes,
Cry "mending's out of fashion."
But as thou'st been a friend in need,
Thro' half life's toilsome journey,
T'would be a graceless thing indeed
Now out of doors to turn ye.
Nay, nay, old friend, 'tis better now
To brave the world's dread laughter,
Than unto thoughtless folly bow,
And meet with scorn hereafter.
The purse proud fop who turns aside,
And scorns a helpless brother,
Will feel the sting of injured pride,
In this world or the other.
And he by whom an aged friend
Is left or disrespected,
May find himself, when life shall end,
By heaven itself neglected.
Then come, old friend, for thou canst yet
Part shield me from the weather;
And when the sun of life shall set,
We'll both lie down together.

BURNS.

[My friend "*Orlando*" appears to have a pretty just conception of the cause of "hard times." It may, in hundreds of instances, be traced to a fondness for dress. The "old coat" is too often thrown aside before its virtues are half expended, simply because it looks a little the worse of age, and because the fingers of the ladies have become so familiar with silks and muslins that they disdain to "mend" it. And it is unnecessary to say, that the *coat* is not the only article of dress which is too soon despised on account of age. —*Economist.*

Mosquetos.—To prevent the bite of Mosquetos, rub the oil of pennyroyal, a little weakened, on the hands and face.

LETTERS ON ENTOMOLOGY.

[By Kirby and Spence.]

LETTER IV.—Continued.

INJURIES CAUSED BY INSECTS.

DIRECT INJURIES.

In Marshland, in Norfolk, as I learn from a lady who had an opportunity of personal inspection, the inhabitants are so annoyed by the gnats, that the better sort of them, as in many hot climates, have recourse to a gauze covering for their beds, to keep them off during the night. Whether this practice obtains in other fen districts I do not know.

But these evils are of small account compared with what other countries, especially when we approach the poles or the line, are destined to suffer from them; for there they interfere so much with ease and comfort, as to become one of the worst of pests and a real misery of human life. We may be disposed to smile perhaps at the story Mr. Weld relates from General Washington, that in one place the mosquitos were so powerful as to pierce through his boots* (probably they crept within the boots); but in various regions scarcely any thing less impenetrable than leather can withstand their insinuating weapons and unwearied attacks. One would at first imagine that regions where the polar winter extends its icy reign would not be much annoyed by insects; but however probable the supposition, it is the reverse of fact, for nowhere are gnats more numerous. These animals, as well as the *Tipulidæ*, seem endowed with the privilege of resisting any degree of cold, and of bearing any degree of heat. In Lapland their numbers are so prodigious as to be compared to a flight of snow when the flakes fall thickest or to the dust of the earth. The natives cannot take a mouthful of food, or lie down to sleep in their cabins, unless they be fumigated almost to suffocation. In the air, you cannot draw your breath without having your mouth and nostrils filled with them; and unguents of tar, fish-greese, or cream; or nets steeped in fetid birch-oil, are scarely sufficient to protect even the case hardened cuticle of the Laplander from their bite. In certain districts of France, the accurate Reaumur informs us, that he has seen people whose arms and legs have become quite monstrous from wounds inflicted by gnats; and in some cases in such a state as to render it doubtful whether amputation would not be necessary. In the neighbourhood of the Crimea, the Russian soldiers were obliged to sleep in sacks to defend themselves from the mosquitos; and even this is not a sufficient security, for several of them die in consequence of mortification produced by the bites of these furious blood-suckers. This fact is related by Dr. Clarke, and to its probability his own painful experience enabled him to speak. He informs us that the bodies of himself and his companions, in spite of gloves, clothes, and handkerchiefs, were rendered one entire wound, and the consequent excessive irritation and swelling excited a considerable degree of fever. In a most sultry night, when not a breath of air was stirring, exhausted by fatigue, pain and heat, he sought shelter in his carriage; and, though almost suffocated, could not venture to open a window for fear of the musquitos. Swarms nevertheless found their way into his hiding place; and, in spite of the handkerchief, with which he had bound up his head, filled his mouth, nostrils, and ears. In the midst of his torment he suceeded in lighting a lamp, which was extinguished in a moment by such a prodigious number of these insects, that their carcases actually filled the glass chimney, and formed a large conical heap over the burner. The noise they make in flying cannot be conceived by persons who have only heard gnats in England. It is to all that hear it a most frightful sound. Travellers and mariners who have visited warmer climates give a similar account of the torments there inflicted by these little demons. One traveller in Africa complains that after a fifty miles journey they would not suffer him to rest and that his face and hands appeared, from their bites, as if he was infected with the small-pox in its worst stage. In the east, at Batavia, Dr. Arnold, a most attentive and accurate observer, relates that their bite is the most venomous he ever felt, occasioning a most intolerable itching, which lasts several days. The sight or sounds of a single one either prevented him from going to bed for a whole night, or obliged him to rise many times. This species, which I have examined, is distinct from the common gnat, and appears to be non-descript. It approaches nearest to *C. annulata*, but the wings are black and not spotted. And Captain Stedman in America, as a proof of the dreadful state to which he and his soldiers were reduced by them, mentions that they were forced to sleep with their heads thrust into holes made in the earth with their bayonets, and their necks wrapped round with their hammocks

It is not therefore incredible that Sapor, king of Persia, as is related, should have been compelled to raise the siege of Nisibis by a plague of gnats, which attacking his elephants and beasts of burden, so caused the rout of his army, whatever he may think of the miracle to which it was attributed; nor that the inhabitants of various cities, as Mouffet has collected from different authors, should by an extraordinary multiplication of this plague, have been compelled to desert them; or that by their power to do mischief, like other conquerors who have been the torment of the human race, they should have attained to fame, and have given their name to bays, towns, and even to considerable territories.*

And now, which seems to you a greater terror, that the forests should resound with the roar of the lion or tiger, or with the hum of the gnat? Which evil is most to be deprecated, the neighbourhood of these ferocious animals, terrible as they are for their cruelty and strength, or to live amidst the polar or tropical myriads of mosquitos, and be subject to the torture of their incessant attacks? When you consider that from the one, prudence and courage may secure or defend us without any considerable sacrifice of our daily comfort; while to be at rest from the other we must either render ourselves disgusting by filthy unguents, or be suffocated by fumigations, or be content to be bound, head, hand and foot, shut out from the respiration of the common air, and even thus scarcely escape from their annoyance; you will feel convinced that the former is the more tolerable evil of the two, and be inclined to think that those cities, from which the lions were driven away by the more powerful gnats, were not great gainers by the exchange. With what greatful hearts ought the privileged inhabitants of these happy islands to acknowledge and glorify the goodness of that kind Providence which has distinguished us from the less favoured nations of the globe, by what may be deemed an immunity from this tormenting pest! for the inroads which they make on our comfort, when contrasted with what so many other people of every climate suffer from them, are mere nothings. When we behold on one side of us the ravages of the wide-wasting sword, on the other those of infectious disease or pestilence, on a third famine destroying its myriads, and on a fourth life rendered uncomfortable by the terror of "noisome beasts" and the attack of noxious insects: and when we look at home and see every one eating his bread in peace, protected in his enjoyments by equal laws, executed by a mild government under a paternal king, without fearing the sword of the oppressor: not scourged by pestilence or famine, exposed to the attack of no ferocious animal, & comparatively speaking but slightly visited by the annoyance of insect tormentors; and especially when we further reflect that it is his mercy and not our merits which has induced him thus to overwhelm us with blessings, while other countries have been made to drink deep of the cup of his fury, we shall see reason for an increased degree of thankfulness and gratitude, and, instead of repining, be well content, with our lot, though our offences have not wholly been passed over, and we have been "beaten with few stripes." (*To be continued.*)

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* Wield's *Travels*, 8vo. edit. 205. Yet Mouffet affirms the same: "Morsu crudeles et venenati, triplices caligas, imo *ocreas*, item perforantes." 81.

* Viz. *Mosquito* Bay in St. Chistopher's; *Mosquitos*, a town in the Island of Cuba; and the *Mosquito* county in North America.

FROM THE EDINBURGH FARMER'S MAGAZINE FOR AUGUST 1821.

[*Received at the office of the Plough Boy.*]

On the Value of, and Different Modes of preparing, Burnt Earth for Manure : By EDWARD BURROUGHS, Esq.

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No. 2.

Having stated the principle on which earth prepared in the foregoing manner is converted into manure, I shall make such general observations on the subject as may elucidate the matter more satisfactorily to the practical farmer, and to convince him that it is not formed on causual experiment originating in fancy, but founded on a system that has for many years existed, but which has only been lately brought to scientific perfection.

In the northern counties in Ireland, the burning of earth was very general ; and this practice is supposed to have originated from a want of manure, flax being a great exhauster of the soil, and not producing any vegetable substance which would ultimately benefit it after yielding that crop. I understand, from several intelligent persons who have seen this manure applied on different farms, that it made the most inferior soil produce good crops of potatoes, corn, and flax ; but as I have not been an eyewitness of their mode of preparing it, I must be satisfied to state the result of the experience which I have had for some years, both as to its preparation, and in applying it on different soils.

I have already observed, that no part of a farm is so well calculated for this practice as headlands :—1*st*, From the soil being deeper on them than on other parts of the field ; and, 2*dly*, From the benefits which the land will receive by cutting away such rising headlands, and giving it a gradual slope to the dykes or water-cuts. If such headlands can be found convenient to fallow lands, there will, consequently, be much expense saved in carting out the manure ; and even the brows or backs of ditches could be converted to this purpose without injury to the fences, and, in many instances, would effect a general benefit. But should any of those resources for supplying sods fail, or that no subsoil calculated for burning can be found on the lands, the surface of grass lands which have a good depth of strong soil, may be advantageously devoted to this purpose.

It may be said, in objection to this practice, that the injury a piece of grass land so stripped would suffer, would be much more than any benefit the manure produced from it could possibly be, for that the land so stripped could never be beneficial afterwards in any way whatever. I shall, therefore, state some experiments which I have made on this point, and leave the reader to judge of the ultimate results.

First.—I stripped about twenty perches of grass land ; the upper soil a loamy sand, the subsoil a poor yellow clay, very weak and friable. The upper soil was about twelve inches deep, and near ten inches of this was cut away in sods for kilns and burning ; so that not more than two inches of the surface soil was left after the manure produced was carted away. The twenty perches were then ploughed, and manured with a well prepared compost heap, and a light dressing of the burned earth which it had produced, ploughed once, and then planted with potatoes : the crop proved of good quality and productive. The second year it was planted with potatoes in like manner, and produced as well as the adjoining part of the field off which the sward had not been carried.

Second.—I practised this the following year on a similar piece of land ; and the result was equally encouraging, indeed more so ; for the potatoes were better where the sward was taken off, than in the adjacent part of the field which was ploughed out of the ley, and manured in the same manner.

I do not, however, mean to assert, that there are not lands which, by such practice, are not in some degree deteriorated ; but certainly the deterioation they suffer is not so serious as is generally supposed ; and I have no doubt, was the land so treated to be well cultivated and manured for three years successively, that it would be effectually restored to its primitive state. Now, when it is considered the quantity of valuable manure which is obtained from so small a surface, surely it cannot be considered as bad management to create a temporary injury, (if such it should be), for to obtain a permanent and extensive benefit.

Of the twenty perches, as already stated, I had as much manure as dressed two acres abundantly for potatoes, and which, the following year, produced better wheat than was obtained off similar soil by the application of farm-yard dung. I also tried it for turnips the same year, and never had a more even or a better crop. Suppose then the staple of the twenty perches to have been reduced ; query, can it not be brought to a sufficient depth by a few deep ploughings and judicious manuring, the expense of which would be but trifling on so small a surface ?

It is well ascertained, that soil of any description can be made fertile by exposure to the atmosphere ; and the appearance of soil brought up by deep ploughing, should never deter the cultivator from trying his skill in this way. Every day's experience shows us, that land which has been dug two spits deep becomes more fertile afterwards, although the good soil, as it is termed, is turned down, and the subsoil brought up : this should evidently convince us, that much is yet to be learned in the science of promoting vegetation.

I shall now make some observations on the value of this manure in general, and show its great advantage as a means of extending profitable cultivation, and of promoting the comforts of the small farmer and cotter.

The number of acres which are fallowed throughout Great-Britain and Ireland, in consequence of the want of manure, causes a serious reduction in land produce for the consumption of the population of those countries ; and this evil must increase progressively as tillage is extended, unless a sufficient means of renovating those lands under cultivation increase in the same proportion.—The system so generally practised in Ireland, of stimulating the soil by an application of lime, and giving it rest by occasionally fallowing, has been, at length, found to be unprofitable, and a practice which ultimately, on light soils especially, reduces them to barrenness. When lands are reduced to this state, it is no easy matter to treat them judiciously ; for although they may produce light crops of some artificial grasses suited to their condition, yet the returns from these must be very deficient, and must consequently be a drawback from the general profit of a farm. The discovery, therefore, of a cheap and valuable manure, must be considered as a matter most essential to the interests of agriculture ; and that which is the most easily obtained, and the most efficacious, must be considered as the most beneficial.

The expense of burning clay in the kiln here described, is from threepence to fourpence an Irish load, or about forty or fifty shillings an Irish acre ; and as there are but few farms on which some sort of earth fit for this purpose cannot be procured, it may be safely said, that it is within the reach of every farmer to obtain. It is, however, necessary to state, that when the sods off light soils are burned, the manure produced is not calculated to apply on similar soils, but should be put out on tenacious clays, moors, or other soils, dissimilar to that prepared for this purpose. But strong clay put through this process becomes excellent manure for soils of the same sort, its property being totally altered by torrefaction. Thus it will be more advantageous to obtain the strong soil, if possible, for preparing this kind of manure.

I have found crops to be much benefited by mixing peat mould with burned earth produced from light soil, in the proportion of one-third of the latter substances, especially should it be necessary to apply it afterwards on sandy soils. I tried an experiment on two acres of land last year to ascertain this fully : —one acre was planted with potatoes, with the burned earth unmixed with any other substance ; the other had the peat and earth ; and the result proved the superiority of the two substances blended. The peat mould was dug through the earth as soon as the kilns were fit to break down, and left in this state for two months ; the heap was then turned, at which time the peat was highly fermented from the heat of the ashes and burned earth. I conceived that the vegetable matter contain-

ed in the peat, and its tendency to retain moisture, acted as an alterative on the soil to which it was applied, and which, being a rabbit sand, was deficient of vegetable matter, and incapable of retaining moisture.

Burned earth may be depended on as a manure fit to produce abundant turnip crops of every description, on a variety of soils; even the Swedes, so difficult to grow on light soils, will prove a more luxuriant crop with this manure, than with *farm-yard* dung, and are less liable to be cut off by the fly. For those crops, however, it should be well prepared by breaking down the kilns as soon as they are sufficiently burned, and by pulverizing the sods, and mixing the ashes through them; and this should be repeated a third or fourth time if necessary.

It may be supposed by some, that any crop sown on this manure would be precarious in a dry season, not containing, as they may conceive, any enriching quality or properties to preserve moisture. But this is by no means the case; for it will be found, that an application of torrefied earth makes the land on which it is applied more capable of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, and, by minutely dividing the soil, the roots of plants can search more freely for nourishment.* I have often observed, that farm-yard dung, unless very well prepared, does not, in excessive dry seasons, supply sufficient moisture to the roots of plants; and that, during such seasons, crops sown on ashes, or burned earth, have uniformly thriven, while those in dunged land have gradually declined. I state this to show more clearly the wonderful property of all burned and torrefied substances in absorbing the food of plants from the atmosphere, and afterwards preserving these for the benefit of their vegetation.

It is a common practice among farmers, both in England and Ireland, to dig headlands, old ditches, and other waste places, and to collect them for manure, by adding some dung or lime through them. This is attended with heavy expense; 1*st*, From the quantity of dung or lime necessary to make the heap profitable; and, 2*dly*, From the double carting which must take place—first, to the heap, and then to the place on which it is to be applied. Now, after all this expense, the manure obtained is of a very inferior quality to what could be produced by putting the earth through the simple process which I have already described; and one load of it would be more valuable than double the quantity would be in its raw state. Thus a saving of one-half the cost, in carting alone, would be effected, one load of burned clay being equal to two loads of such compost, besides having the dung or lime to appropriate to other purposes.

It may sometimes happen, that the places off which sods can be obtained is so much detached, that it would be attended with too much expense, and, perhaps, great inconvienence, collecting them for a large kiln; in this case, large heaps of the sods may be made and torrefied in the following manner: viz.

Let four flues be cut on the surface of the land, convenient to where the greater part of the sods can be collected, about eight inches deep, and six wide, and covered, as before directed, with strong sods. The firing is then to be placed on the centre, where the four flues meet, which must be stronger, in proportion, than what would be necessary for a *close* kiln, as the burning of the sods in this manner will entirely depend on the strength of the fire, and the judicious manner in which the sods are placed on the heaps. The kindling should be perfectly covered with sods before it is lighted, and then piled heavily as soon as it is well kindled, but observing to cover those places first from which the smoke issues the strongest. Two of the flues should be stopped as before directed; and when the heap ceases burning, which is generally the case in four or five days, it should be covered well with the surrounding soil, and left so for some weeks before it is broken down or turned.

Sods burned in this manner do not produce such good manure as in a regular kiln; neither does a certain quantity of firing prove so productive in those round heaps, as it does in kilns; it is, therefore, only necessity that should cause the adoption of this mode instead of the regular kiln. By this it will appear, that, by the erection of the walls, the heat is retained effectually, and will often continue for six or eight weeks after they have done burning; whereas, in the round heaps, the air having the full power on the surface, the internal heat is soon checked; besides, the walls ultimataly become manure, and the expense of erecting them is but trifling.

Burned earth is an excellent manure for garden seeds, especially when applied on rich soils which have been often dunged, or inclined to weeds: it does not engender slugs or worms, and is, therefore, well calculated for such plants as are liable to be cut off by those insects.

On the whole, it must be considered as a most valuable addition to the farmer's means of cultivation and improvement; and I am satisfied, that it only requires to be known to entitle it to this character.

* "It is well known that burned clay, after being reduced to powder, will not again coalesce, so as to be formed into a brick, unless it has been treated with the acids. The powder of burned clay lies always in that happy medium between cohesion and repulsion of the particles, which, as has been already observed, is best adapted to divide the particles of water, and give admission to the roots of vegetables. I have long remarked with surprise, the wonderful power of fertility which this substance discovers, whether in a body by itself, or mixed with raw earths."—*Naismyth's Elements of Agriculture*, p. 340.

THE PLOUGH BOY.

ALBANY: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1822.

From the American Farmer.

NOTICES OF THE NORTH DEVON CATTLE.

Mr. Bingley, in his Memoirs of British Quadrupeds, gives the following account of this Beeed of Cattle.

By all judges of Cattle, the Devonshire Breed is confessed to be one of the most beautiful, and at the same time one of the most valuable, which our Islands produce.—They are of a large size, and of a red colour. The colour of the COWS varies from light blood-red to dark mahogany; and the face, knees, and hocks, sometimes approach to black. The BULLS are nearly the same, but are also generally dark in the fore-quarters, and mottled on the sides and back.—The OXEN are often long in the coat; and a glossy mahogany colour, with waving curls, is held in great esteem.

Any white, except on the tip of the tail, is disliked by the Breeders, from its being supposed to show a mongrel tendency. Round each eye there is a light ring. The horns taper to a point, and are of a light yellow colour. The head is small, and the Muzzle of a clear yellow.

These Cattle are fine in the bone, and clean in the neck. They are also wide across the hips and bosom. Their back is straight, and the tail is small and set on very high. They are thin skinned, and silky in the handling. The general height of the bull is from 12 to 13 hands, of the cow from 11 to 12, and of the oxen from 14 to 15.

The Devonshire Cattle arrive at maturity sooner than most other Breeds, and the full grow animals are so valuable, that few of the Calves are killed. For the usefulness in agricultural labours, the Oxen are held in the highest estimation. They are well fitted for draught, both as to hardiness and activity.

The average quantity of butter produced by the Cows is from seven to ten pounds per week, though some have been known to yield as much as thirteen or fourteen.

Bingley at page 120 of Vol. 3, of Useful Knowledge says, those called the Devonshire Cattle are adjudged to be the best of any.

The following account of the North Devons is extracted from page 239 of Recretions in Natural History. Published in 1815 by Sherwood, Neely & Jones.

This Breed bears a closer affinity to the wild race than any other. It is said to be found in the greatest purity, and of the best kind, in the neighbourhood of Barnstaple.—The Horns are of a middle length, bending

upwards. The colour varies from a light to a very deep red. These Cattle are thin in the face, fine in the chops and bone; clean in the neck, and wide in the hips. The Devonshire Breed is justly regarded as one of the handsomest, and at the same time most profitable which are reared in Britain.

They fatten early, and on the most valuable parts, and are admirably fitted for draught: and though small in point of size, they amply compensate for that defect by their hardiness and agility.

The DEVON OXEN are mostly yoxed at two or three years old, and lightly worked.—Their labour is increased at four: and from that period to six they are fully worked.—Worked Oxen of this valuable Breed attain a larger size than those which are not worked, and at six years old they mostly finish their growth. In excellence of beef, Mr. Bingley states, the Devonshire Oxen can scarcely be exceeded; and it is a remarkable circumstance, that they will bear driving to London, sometimes without the smallest waste, from a distance of considerably more than one hundred miles.

Their skin improves much in tanning, and their tallow is of a peculiarly good quality.

As a permanent proof of the real value of this race, it may be sufficient to remark, that it has generally commanded the best prices at Smithfield for a century past.

Extract from an American Newspaper.

BALTIMORE (Maryland,) 11th June, 1817.

Arrived here, yesterday, in the Brig Margaretta, captain Gardner, from London, six beautiful young Cows, and one Bull, of the Devonshire Breed, together with some improved Implements of Husbandry, for Mr. Patterson and Mr. Caton, of this place, the whole being a present from the celebrated Mr. Coke, M. P. for Norfolk, the richest and most practical Farmer in England, who gives the following description of these cattle.

"I venture to give it as my opinion, that we have no Cattle to be compared to them, in the united Kingdom, for purity of blood, for aptitude to feed, for hardiness, for work, and for the richness of their milk, as I have repeatedly found by a variety of experiments upon my own farms and elsewhere. That they may answer in America as well as they are now universally acknowledged to do in England, I most cordially hope, and my wishes will then be gratified."

An extract from the 549th number of the Farmer's Journal, published by Evans & Ruffy, London.

"Smithfield Market, Monday 23d March 1818. The handsome and well fed North Devons have already got the name of *Norfolks.*"

Extract from the Farm Dairy kept at Moor House, near Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Wednesday 6th August 1817. Arrived at Moor House, four yearling Quey Calves, and one yearling Bull Calf, of the North Devon breed, a present from Mr. Coke of Norfolk.

They were nine days on the road from Holkham, being 172 miles. Although travelling at the rate of 19 miles a day for nine days together, they arrived very fresh, and not the least foot sore. They were greatly admired on the road, and Johnstone the Drover was questioned the whole way where they came from and whither they were going.

Thursday 30th July, 1818. On my return from Norfolk I found that my North Devon Cows hand borne the hot Summer and bare pasture better than any other cattle in the field. They shewed this superiority in Norfolk. The fine herd, in Holkham park, found support and kept up their flesh on an apparently bare and burnt-up pasture.

My second visit into Norfolk convinced me that the Devons, which were first introduced by Mr. Coke, were becoming the favorite stock.

The farmers said their pastures would carry more Devons than Suffolks, which had been hitherto their favorite Milch Cows; and the farmer's wives were now giving them the preference for the dairy.

Mr. Bloomfield's dairy of 20 head (12 cows and 8 heifers) produced 130lbs. of butter a week. One of these cows had produced 13 1-2 lbs. a week.

Mr. Coke's Bailiff had a Devon which produced 15lbs. a week.

Mr. Oakes a Devon that produced 16 1-4 lbs. a week.

The Devon Oxen are decidedly the best draught Oxen in Britain. No other kind ought to be used for the plough.

Mr. Coke produced at the Sheepshearing in 1817, 3 Oxen which at 3 years old averaged 70 Stone, each, of 14lbs. to the Stone.—These Oxen had been worked so late as the preceding spring.

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Those desirous of seeing this beautiful breed of Cattle in genuine purity, and in fine order, will find some elegant specimens of them at "Cold Spring," Mr. Patterson's country seat, near this city.—*Edit. Am. Farmer.*

From the Mechanic's Gazette.

PUNCTUALITY.

MR. PRINTER.—Permit me to offer a few observations to the young mechanic, on the subject of punctuality.

When I first commenced business, my uncle communicated to me in a letter certain rules for my guidance, which he earnestly requested me to look at once a month at least, during the first year. His request I attended to, and I soon found the benefits of his golden maxims. I wish I had his letter to publish, but in the lapse of time it has got mislaid.

In his instructions, he pointed out the evils resulting from disappointment, and the benefits resulting from punctuality. I recollect one sentence, which was—*never promise more than you can perform.* I want no other evidence of the soundness of his maxims, than what experience has proved.

I opened my shop, and commenced trade, and soon found I was likely to have a share of business. It so happened, that I soon had an order for a pair of boots, provided I could make them within a certain time. I gave my word they should be done agreeably to order. My customer was no less punctual than myself; for on the day appointed he called. "I presume I have called rather too soon." No sir, you have called agreeably to appointment, and there are your boots. "They are here, most truly; and now let me tell you, my honest tradesman, that for ten years past, I believe this is the first instance in which I have received an article at the time it was promised. If such promptitude is to be the rule of your conduct, you may calculate upon me as a constant customers; besides, you shall have what little influence I possess, in the way of recommending others."

Many a pound, Mr. Printer, I received from this man and his family, and many a good customer came to my shop through his recommendation. My shop soon became known—I was called the *punctual shoemaker*—and in a few years by close attention to business, and to my uncle's golden maxims, I felt myself easy in circumstances, and in a few more years had saved sufficient to retire from labor. I then gave up my shop to an industrious young, man, who had served his time with me in the most faithful manner. He still continues his trade, and is doing handsomely.

I often, in my perambulations, call at his shop to enquire how goes trade, and always find him as busy as a bee, while many others in the line are continually pestering me with "ah, old man, business is not now as it used to be! no shoemaker can get rich now a days." To such men I invariably reply, that if they will adopt the rule which governed me—*promise no more than you can perform*—have their work done agreeably to promise, and be more in their shops to attend to the orders of such as might call, they would have no reason to complain—and like myself, in a few years they would find themselves in easy circumstances.

CRISPIN.

Cud lost by an ox or cow,—REMEDY FOR.

Mix together an equal quantity of sour lea ven and common salt, then add a piece of loam or brick clay, equal in weight to the whole: break and mix all these well together, and then add as much urine as will serve to beat it up into a paste. Make this into two or three balls as big as the creature can swallow, force one of these down his throat every three days and it is said it will effect a cure. —*N. E. Far.*

POETRY.

From the New Monthly Magazine, for June.

AIR, "FLY NOT YET."

When eastern skies are tinged with red,
And fairest morn with hasty tread
Upsprings to ope Heaven's golden gate,
And chase the ling'ring stars that wait
To spy the blushing dawn;
While rays from Phœbus' glowing car
Gleam brightly on your casement's bar,
And pour a flood of glorious light
To shame the slothful sons of night,
Oh haste—oh haste
To snatch the fresh and fleeting hour
Ere noon has sipp'd each dewy flower
That decks the spangled lawn.

Oh shake off slumber's drowsy spell,
In morning's pleasant haunts to dwell;
And haste to join the feather'd throng,
To greet the dawn with choral song,
Or skylark's earlier lay:
With careless footsteps freely rove
O'er sunny plain, or leafy grove,
While new-mown hay its sweets bestowing,
Perfumes the air that's freshly blowing;
Oh haste—oh haste
To meet the bee on busy wing
O'er opening flowerets hovering,
And watch the squirrel's play.

To taste the gifts of earth and air,
That Phœbus' fiercer beam will scare;
On new-born buds of every hue
To trace the glittering drops of dew,
The timid hare to spy,
Who stealing forth, now hopes unseen,
To banquet on the humid green,
And oft, the while she fearless gazes,
Admires her leveret's frolic mazes,
Oh haste—oh haste—
Joys like these will never stay,
But melt like summer's mist away,
From days too piercing eye.

[*N. E. Far.*]

FROM THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Long Woolled and Broad Tailed Sheep of Africa.

The Hon. Dudley L. Pickman, of Salem, has presented to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society a Ram of this breed, just imported.

A Ram and Ewe, of the first race introduced into this country, were presented by Gen. Eaton to the Hon. Timothy Pickering, then resident in Pennsylvania, by the name of the Barbary Mountain Sheep. The President of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society some years afterwards, gave the following high character of the breed, in the memoirs of that Society:

"I know not any breed of sheep superior and few equal to it. Its fleece is of the first quality; and the valuable parts singularly good. No other African Sheep is to be compared to this species, either for fleece, fattening, or hardihood. It bears our severest winters without shelter. Some of the best lamb and mutton sold in our market are of this breed; which is now spread through many parts of this State and Jersey."—(Memoirs vol. 1. page 163.)

General notice is hereby given to the Farmers of Massachusetts, that the Ram now at E. Hersey Derby's, and at the disposal of the Trustees of the Society, will be delivered to any gentleman who is desirous to obtain a cross from this breed, free of cost, and upon the sole condition of good treatment of the animal, and to be kept within the State.—Application to be made *immediately* to either of the subscribers.

E. HERSEY DERBY, *Salem.*
JOHN PRINCE, *Roxbury.*

From the Mass. Agricultural Repository, for June.

DR. DEANE'S NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

In our last number we mentioned that Messrs. WELLS & LILLY had caused this valuable, and as we think, standard work to be revised at their own expense, and had put it to press. A wish to render it as perfect as they could, to incorporate in it most of the improvements which have taken place in agriculture since the publication of the second edition, and to expunge from it all superfluous matter, or opinions which are now exploded, has delayed the work to this time.

It will probably appear in the course of a few weeks. We have no other interest in introducing this subject again to the notice of our readers and subscribers, than the wish to diffuse correct agricultural knowledge. Dr. Deane's work was certainly as good a compendium for its size, as could be found in Europe at the time it was published. It had the special merit, for *us*, of adapting European modes of culture to *our* soil and climate. Even in its improved state, it is not pretended that the work supersedes the necessity, with intelligent cultivators, of an extensive agricultural library, but it is calculated, and well calculated, to aid the experience, and enlighten and direct the practice of all descriptions of farmers. It has been necessary so far to enlarge it, in consequence of the great modern improvements in agriculture, that it may prove too expensive for *small* farmers, but we think *all* farmers in *easy* circumstances will find it a very cheap book.—Many things will not be new to them, but even these they will find enforced by new reasons and arguments. Though written principally with a view to the New-England States, there is no part of the United States in which it will not be found of great value, and perhaps it may not be and ought not to be its smallest recommendation to the farmers of the United States, that excepting the Rev. Jared Elliot's small tract, it was the earliest and by far the most respectable agricultural work ever published in the United States.—The Farmer's Assistant by Mr. Nicholson, of the State of New-York, a very respectable work, is apparently modelled upon it, and I presume the author will admit, what indeed his pages prove, the great assistance he derived from this work.*

But in New-England, it was thought best to republish Dr. Deane's work, with additions and corrections, not with the wish, in any degree, to interfere with the other work alluded to. So far from it, Messrs. Wells & Lilly, to our knowledge, contemplated and proposed to the writer of this notice, the republication of Dr. Deane's work, before the Farmer's Assistant went to the press.

We repeat, that as Editors of this journal, and as individuals, we have no other interest in, or wish to promote the circulation of the new edition of Dr. Deane's New England Farmer's Dictionary, than the advancement of sound principles in agriculture. We wish well to agricultural publications of *merit*, and as we have alluded to the Farmer's Assistant, we ought to add, that we think that work is one which deserves this character. We trust the demand of ten millions of people will be great enough for both, and in a few years, for many others.—*Ibid.*

* *Mr. Nicholson has been dead a year past.* —EDIT. P. B.

THE PLEASURE OF PLEASING.

To a man who possesses a good heart there can be nothing more pleasing than the consciousness of giving pleasure to others. The luxury of doing good is a most exquisite as well as a most innocent luxury to him whose feelings and affections are such as make a man capable of enjoying as well as bestowing happiness.—*N. E. Far.*

☞ COMMUNICATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS for this paper, received by the EDITOR at the PRINTING-OFFICE, No. 87, South-Pearl-Street. Each volume comprises twelve months, or fifty-two numbers—the numbers are issued weekly on Tuesdays, and the volume commences the first Tuesday in June.

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